

the merits of the earlier ones, and, in addition, a large amount of scientific as distinguished from clinical information which was less conspicuous in them, it cannot fail to confirm and increase the reputation of the work which they established.

Another distinctive feature of this volume, and one in which it surpasses similar English, and, we believe it may be added, French and German treatises of the same description, is the completeness of the sections relating to diagnosis. Completeness, with accuracy and conciseness, it may be added. This portion leaves upon the mind distinct and sharp cut impressions. It is what a physician, in ignorance or doubt respecting diagnosis, most of all desires. He is apt to be irritated by half statements which appear to him more like the non-committal promises of officials than the naked truth which is an attribute of genuine science. He desires to learn the limits of possible knowledge as well as of positive ignorance. To such a searcher after truth this work brings relief even when it does not supply definite information.

In a word, we do not know of any similar work which is at once so elaborate and so concise, so full and yet so accurate; or which in every part leaves upon the mind the impression of its being the product of an author richly stored with the fruits of clinical observation, and an adept in the art of conveying them clearly and attractively to others. A. S.

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ART. XXXII.—*Medical Diagnosis with special reference to Practical Medicine. A Guide to the Knowledge and Discrimination of Diseases.* By J. M. DA COSTA, M.D., Professor of Practice of Medicine and of Clinical Medicine at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Consulting Physician to the Children's Hospital, etc. etc. Fifth edition, revised. 8vo. pp. 924. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1881.

THE first edition of this work was published in 1864. An extended analytical review of that edition, in this Journal, ended with the following words: "It may be welcomed as a text-book, which will do credit to our national medical literature." The estimate of its value, as thus expressed, was confirmed by the favourable consideration which it received both at home and abroad, and was substantiated by the speedy exhaustion of the first edition. During the sixteen years which have elapsed, the work has passed through four editions, and its position as a valuable text-book has been steadily maintained.

The success of a work devoted chiefly to diagnosis, shows, first, that the medical profession appreciate the importance and the difficulty of that branch of medicine, and, second, that the work fulfils most satisfactorily the objects for which it was written. It is unnecessary to say more of the merits of the work. In doing so, the writer of this notice would simply repeat the opinions which he has expressed in his notices in this Journal of the subsequent editions.

In revising the work for the fifth edition, the author has found it necessary to rewrite in a measure the chapters on the nervous system and on the blood. New developments within late years relate especially to these nosological divisions. The evidences of a thorough revision are also apparent in other portions of the work. The revision secures for this edition

a position in relation to the medical knowledge of to-day, corresponding to that which the first edition held at the time of its publication. We congratulate cordially the author on the completion of the task of preparing a new edition, and on the merited success of the work for the future as in the past.

A. F.

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ART. XXXIII.—*Treatise on Diphtheria*. By A. JACOBI, M.D., Clinical Professor of Diseases of Children in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; Physician to Bellevue, Mount Sinai, and the German Hospitals, etc. 8vo. pp. xi., 252. New York: William Wood & Co., 1880.

FOR the quarter of a century, during which, according to the reiterated opinion of our author, diphtheria has been continuously endemic in New York City, Prof. Jacobi has had ample opportunity of combating the disease in all its phases, and of testing the value of therapeutic measures, medical and surgical, to an extent perhaps unequalled on the continent of America. From time to time, during two decades, various papers on the subject have been promulgated from his pen, and his extemporaneous observations have been recorded in current summaries of the proceedings of medical organizations. Well known, in addition, as a close student of medical literature as well as a careful, judicious, and successful practitioner of medicine, hardly any one could be named in this country from whom a treatise on diphtheria would be more warmly welcomed at the present period, when its subject is the cause of much anxious personal consideration among practitioners, and the theme of much comment in medical debate.

The treatise contains nine chapters simply headed History, Etiology, The Manner of Infection, Contagion and Incubation, Symptoms, Anatomical Appearances, Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment; the chapters on Symptoms and Treatment being by far the largest of the series.

The historic record is full enough to satisfy any inquiry, and traces the appearance of the disease in the New England district as far back as the year 1659.

In contrasting the greater susceptibility of children to the disease as compared with adults, an argument is drawn from the fact that of more than two hundred and fifty cases upon whom the author had performed tracheotomy, but two were over thirteen years of age. This, however, is hardly in point; for the larger calibre of the larynx and trachea of the adult secures him from the mechanical obstruction to respiration that renders resort to the operation so incomparably more frequent in the child. As is well known, there are but one or two well attested records of successful tracheotomy for diphtheria in the adult; a result attributed to the septic progression of the disease which precedes the comparatively late period at which the more capacious air-tube of the adult becomes occluded by accumulating products.

Most writers credit males as more frequent subjects of diphtheria than females, but Dr. Jacobi does not recognize any predisposition in favour of either sex. He mentions that of some six hundred cases in which he either personally performed tracheotomy or observed the progress of the